

**Student Learning Assessment Program
Response to Summary Form
Undergraduate Program 2005**

Department: Psychology

Category	Level*	Comments
Learning Objectives	Level 3, B.A. Psychology	Objectives are clear, measurable, and programmatic. The plan to revisit the goals this upcoming year in light of faculty discussions and information from the APA is a good one.
How, Where, and When Assessed	Level 1-2, B.A. Psychology	The issue of direct assessment data remains a problem here. The assessment committee has clearly sought data to speak to the objectives for this program, and the largely indirect measures that are being collected are good: evaluations of the posters and student presentations at the Research Forum, internship evaluations, etc. My question, however, is how many majors take part in the research forum or participate in internships? Are all students required to participate? If not, then that information only tells a small bit of the tale of student learning in psychology. One of your objectives is “oral/written communication skills,” and I didn’t see a measure that collected data on students’ writing skills. The surveys and evaluations of student research are very interesting and provide useful information, but the direct assessment—especially for objective one—is still needed to provide a picture of what students are learning in your major. How are the plans coming to make the exam a requirement or to develop a capstone course?
Expectations	Level 2, B.A. Psychology	Expectations cannot be established for direct measures that are not yet in place, but the indirect measures have targeted expectations that speak to the objectives.
Results	Level 2, B.A. Psychology	Results are being collected for the surveys, and those results align nicely with the stated expectations. Who are the raters for the posters? I assume they are faculty members—is this correct? Once you have direct measures in place, it will be interesting to see if students’ perceptions of their skills and knowledge are corroborated by what they are actually able to do and know. Do the results you have provide any insight into your curriculum or student learning?
How Results Will be Used	Level 2, B.A. Psychology	The feedback loop appears to be in place and is working. Despite the problems encountered in student motivation, the department appears to be trying to sort out how to gather and share data on student learning. I wish the assessment committee good luck! Please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Please use the new summary form for the next submission; it can be found at www.eiu.edu/~assess.

* Levels should not be interpreted as grades or scores; they are stages of implementation based on patterns of characteristics described by North Central Association. These levels are approximations based on the information provided in the summaries. Please refer to the checklist for the Primary Traits listed for each level.